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from France. One follows with interest his struggle to better his condition, to rise to the rank of general. We see the Napoleonic army through the eyes of a soldier of the *ancien régime*. Confident in his own ability, Bouillé attributes his slow advance to the jealousy of those above him in rank; he is given no opportunity to distinguish himself, or when he does distinguish himself his deeds pass unrecorded or unrewarded. His superior may act upon his advice, but he receives no credit for the suggestion. Only after three years of campaigning, in 1809, is he made colonel—the rank he held in the English army—and in 1810 brigadier general. The loss of his sight, in October, 1812, forced him to abandon the army, a disappointed man. "I have almost never been able to be what I might have been and wished to be . . . I have not been appreciated", he exclaimed later. "Retenons ce mot", writes M. Kermaint-gant, the editor of the *Mémoires*, "il aide à comprendre l'esprit dans lequel ont été écrits les Souvenirs; il en donne pour ainsi dire la clé."

FRED MORROW FLING.

La Première Commune Révolutionnaire de Paris et les Assemblées Nationales. Par P. LACOMBE, Inspecteur Général Honoraire des Bibliothèques et des Archives. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1911. Pp. xiii, 389.)

It is with a feeling of disappointment that one concludes the reading of M. Lacombe's volume, notwithstanding its excellent qualities. This is not due to the restricted scope of the subject, for the relations between the Commune of August 10 and the two national assemblies, the Legislative and the Convention, during the period closing with the election of a new municipality, are sufficiently complex and interesting to invite extended treatment. The trouble is that while the author quotes many words which the speakers of the Commune uttered, and describes some things which the Commune did, he leaves the Commune itself too much in the shadow. Only towards the close of the volume does it become apparent that Paris is not united, and that, for example, the Bureau and the Council General are bitterly opposed to one another. Not even then does M. Lacombe give us any detailed information upon the nature and extent of these divisions, so that we are obliged to study a controversy between two parties one of which remains, as it were, screened from our gaze. Of course, details about the Legislative Assembly or the Convention are not required, but the Commune of August 10 has not been treated adequately, except so far as Mortimer Ternaux has described it in his *Histoire de la Terreur*, and his description cannot be considered sympathetic. After M. Sagnac's careful treatment of August 10 in his *Chute de la Royauté* the way was open for a similar handling of the difficult period that follows.

In his study of the subject M. Lacombe has purposely limited himself to the analysis and interpretation of speeches. He believes no sufficient effort has been made to penetrate to the real testimony which the

speeches offer, whatever the ostensible motive of their utterance. Consequently he has not used contemporary letters or memoirs, or unprinted material of any sort. For the text of speeches he has relied mainly upon the *Moniteur*, the *Journal des Débats et Décrets*, and M. Aulard's collection for the Jacobin Club.

Although M. Lacombe says he entered upon the investigation of the subject without prepossessions, the result of his studies has been to make him an "adversaire résolu de la Commune et de ses partisans", and he is convinced that "la Commune reste la grande criminelle que rien n'absout". This conviction appears in every chapter of the book and, indeed, determines the line of development in the treatment of the whole subject. He scorns the historian who is simply a registering machine, and goes so far in the other direction that he often apostrophizes his principal characters, especially Danton and Robespierre, interrupting his quotations from their speeches to question and comment. This makes the discussions unusually lively. His remarks are so frank, and he quotes so liberally from the speeches, that even the reader who has not access to the original documents is rarely left at the mercy of his judgments.

Whatever the shortcomings of the method, the presentation is effective and leaves the impression that the Revolutionary Commune seriously compromised the cause of the republic, and that it was condemned by prominent Montagnards as well as by Girondists. Whether this thesis was sufficiently novel to justify the publication of a volume of proof may be questioned.

H. E. BOURNE.

Geschichte Europas seit den Verträgen von 1815 bis zum Frankfurter Frieden von 1871. Fünfter und sechster Band. (Zweite Abteilung, zweiter und dritter Band.) Von ALFRED STERN. (Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta. 1911. Pp. xiv, 456; xviii, 639.)

STERN's History of Europe from the Congress of Vienna to the Peace of Frankfort has now reached the year 1848, volumes V. and VI. covering the period since 1835. The rate of progress here attained is slightly greater than in previous volumes, in spite of the fact that the scope is somewhat widened by the inclusion of the Scandinavian countries and the content made more complex by the increasing variety of interests considered. This result has been attained partly by reducing the space devoted to strictly political questions and partly by extending the sixth volume to include nearly six hundred pages of solid text.

On the whole the author distinctly improves as he advances. There is little difference in the quality of the scholarship or the thoroughness of the research, but the style seems to grow smoother and more lucid and the interest in other questions than politics and diplomacy more manifest. In truth the fourth and fifth decades of the nineteenth century are far